

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 15 and 16 and amended claims 1, 3, 7, 14 and 17-19 are in this application.

At paragraph 4 of the outstanding Final Office Action of February 2, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,019). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1, recites in part, "A digital signal conversion method comprising the steps of...extracting a predetermined subset from a complete set of orthogonal transform coefficients **from each of at least two blocks** generated after orthogonally transforming said at least two blocks of a digital signal of a first format..." (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the reference relied upon by the Examiner does not teach the above-recited feature of amended independent claim 1.

Kim teaches changing the number of samples in a coded signal by directly mapping original transform coefficients in the coded signal to new transform coefficients (column 1, lines 5-15). Kim also teaches transforming the resolution of an image from a first image resolution to a second image resolution (column 3, lines 3-16). However, Kim does not teach or suggest extracting a predetermined subset of orthogonal transform coefficients from each of at least two blocks generated after orthogonally transforming the at least two blocks of a digital signal of a first format. An example of a predetermined subset is shown in Fig. 4B of the drawings and described at page 25, line 13 to page 26, line 19 of the present specification. For example, if a block consists of 8 DCT coefficients as shown in Fig 4A, then a subset of that block would be, for this instance, 4 DCT coefficients as shown in Fig 4B. The purpose of utilizing only partial DCT coefficients of each selected block is to eliminate all the low-frequency side DCT coefficients in order to reduce storage space and expedite processing by handling less than all the DCT coefficients of each block.

Fig. 3A of Kim depicts 6 blocks each of which contains 64 DCT coefficients. All 64 DCT coefficients of each of the selected 6 blocks are utilized in generating new DCT coefficients. While only particular blocks are selected, once selected, all of the associated coefficients are used. In contrast, in the present invention and as mentioned in amended independent claim 1, only a predetermined subset of DCT coefficients of each selected block is utilized to generate a new coupled block. Therefore, the difference between the present invention and Kim is that in the present invention only a specified portion of the generated DCT coefficients of each block are utilized, while in Kim, all of the DCT coefficients of only some selected ones of these blocks are used. Thus, Kim selects portions of an image to be used by location, while the present invention selects portions of the image to be used in the frequency

domain. As a result, in Kim, certain blocks are excluded, while in the present invention all blocks are included, but certain frequency components may be excluded from the display of one or more of the blocks.

Furthermore, Kim also does not teach or suggest combining the newly formed sub-blocks containing partial DCT coefficients to form a coupled new block, and then carrying out DCT processing to the coupled new block to generate new orthogonal transform coefficients, as does amended independent claim 1. Therefore amended independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Kim.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 1, amended independent claims 14 and 18 are also believed to be distinguishable from Kim.

Furthermore, applicants submit that claim 15 depends from amended independent claims 14, and is therefore distinguishable for this reason alone.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

At paragraph 6 of the outstanding Final Office Action of February 2, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,019). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 are either directly or indirectly dependent from amended independent claims 1, 14 and 18 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Kim for at least the reasons previously described. Therefore, claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 are believed to be distinguishable from Kim.

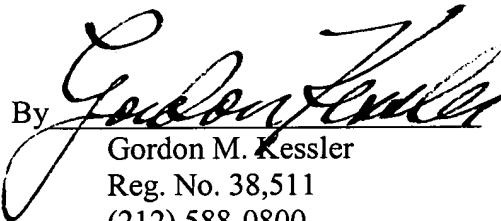
Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-8, 16, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

It is to be appreciated that the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art represent the present opinions of the applicants undersigned attorney and, in the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is a basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Gordon M. Kessler
Reg. No. 38,511
(212) 588-0800